

Message Text

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62

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7577

SECDEF

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

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FRANKFORT PASS GAO

E. O. 11652:NA

TAGS: OTRA, NATO, AGAO

SUBJECT: GAO STUDY TRIP ON STANDARDIZATION

REF: LONDON 16879

1. KENNETH MACDONALD, AUS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND
INDUSTRIAL POLICY, MOD, INFORMED EMBOFF TODAY THAT MOD
ENVISAGES FOLLOWING PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 26 MEETING WITH
GAO OFFICIALS:

MORNING SESSION:

0950 ARRIVE MOD (HORSE GUARDS ENTRANCE)

1000 MEETING WITH UK OFFICIALS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 79.

MOD OFFICIALS WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE CENTRAL STAFF,

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THE SYSTEMS CONTROLLERATES IN THE PROCUREMENT

EXECUTIVE AND SPECIALISTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS.

2. MACDONALD SUGGESTS MORNING DISCUSSIONS CONCENTRATE ON (A) PROSPECTS FOR STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY IN LONG AND SHORT TERM; (B) HMG'S PERCEPTIONS ON THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS TO STANDARDIZATION; (C) EXTENT OF STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY WHICH IS NECESSARY; (D) PRIORITY TARGETS FOR STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY; AND (E) METHODS FOR ACHIEVING STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY, "USING PARTICULAR ISSUES" TO ILLUSTRATE POINTS. BRITISH PROPOSE TO START DISCUSSION IN EACH AREA BY GIVING THEIR VIEWPOINT AND EXPECT US GAO PARTY TO RESPOND.

3. MOD OFFICIALS SEEK A "TWO-WAY STREET" DIALOGUE AND ARE HOPEFUL GAO OFFICIALS WILL INDICATE THEIR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND DISCUSS THEIR CURRENT FINDINGS. MACDONALD PROPOSES THAT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OF "A MORE TECHNICAL NATURE" (E. G. FUELS, AMMO, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED IN "MORE RESTRICTED MEETINGS" IN THE AFTERNOON WITH THE SPECIALISTS INVOLVED.

4. WE ARE TOLD THAT MOD IS TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR GAO OFFICIALS TO TALK WITH A BRITISH MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE FIELD AND ARE SETTING UP A MEETING WITH A DIVISIONAL COMMANDER IN BAOR FOR NOVEMBER 23. BRITISH EMBASSY IN BONN HAS ACTION AND WILL CONTACT GAO THROUGH AMCONSUL FRANKFURT.

5. MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS IS SCHEDULED FOR 1100 HOURS ON NOVEMBER 24.

6. GIVEN EXTENT AND EFFORT TO WHICH BRITISH HAVE GONE TO ACCOMMODATE GAO REQUEST, WE URGE GAO HOST A LUNCHEON FOR 12 OFFICIALS ON NOVEMBER 26. EMBASSY WILL BE GLAD TO ARRANGE BUT IS UNABLE TO FINANCE. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ASAP. SPIERS

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